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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER TREASURY EMPLOYEE AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR INDICTED
IN WIRE FRAUD AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST CASE**

Greenbelt, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that on February 9, 2004 a federal grand jury indicted under seal former U. S. Department of the Treasury employee Veronica Hardy-Everette, age 55, and her spouse, Charles Daniel Everette, age 62, both of Suitland, Maryland, in connection with their participation in a scheme to defraud and commit crimes against the United States using the government procurement process to funnel Treasury funds to two businesses owned and operated by Charles Everette.

The 26 count indictment unsealed today alleges that Hardy-Everette was an employee development specialist with the Financial Management Service (FMS) and responsible for the procurement of software training services for the FMS workforce. Beginning about January 1999 and continuing until about December 2000, Hardy-Everette is alleged to have arranged for the award of more than 100 government training contracts to two software training businesses operated by her spouse, Charles Daniel Everette, also known as Charles Daniels. The two businesses were identified as Computer Image and C & D Training Consultants.

The indictment further alleges that Hardy-Everette and Everette caused the wire transfer of government funds to three bank accounts maintained by Everette in the names of Computer Image and C & D Training Consultants. Payments totaling more than \$139,600 are alleged to have been made to Everette's businesses, allowing Hardy-Everette and Everette to profit financially.

The 26 count indictment is comprised of one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and the Treasury Department and to commit certain offenses against the United States; 15 counts of wire fraud; and ten counts alleging conflict of interest. Each count carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The defendants are scheduled for their initial appearances at 2:00 and 2:15 p.m. today in the U.S. District Court in Greenbelt, Maryland.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by an indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

This case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General for the Department of the Treasury and the United States Attorney's Office. This case will be prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Barbara S. Skalla.